



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **The Second Annual Cultural Awareness Days Celebration To Be Held**

On Saturday, June 26, 2004, the Second Annual Cultural Awareness Days (CA-Days) Celebration will be held to recognize and embrace the culturally diverse population in the Greater Hartford Area. Hartford's Bushnell Park will be the site of this exciting event, as people representing all ethnic backgrounds will gather to share traditions and cultures throughout the daylong program, which begins at noon and ends at 6pm.

Cultural Awareness Days is a celebration of the Capital Area's most significant supply; the rich ethnic and cultural diversity of its neighborhoods and surrounding communities. It is truly a collaborative effort highlighting customs from around the globe and offers a colorful medley of music, theater, dance, history, folklore, education, and ethnic foods. The purpose of the event is to encourage, promote and foster an atmosphere of awareness and understanding concerning issues of race and ethnicity. The goal is to promote dialogue on race relations and ethnic diversities and strengthen relationships within our communities. Last year's inaugural event attracted approximately 2,000 people who experienced a collaboration of over 40 different cultural performances and more than 50 vendors and exhibitors.

According to John Motley, President of Travelers Foundation, the event's major sponsor, "Breaking the cycle of racial and ethnic barriers within our communities begins from within each of us and should include our children. CA-Days is a learning experience for all families." Planning partners of CA-Days believe that by working together, the misperceptions that exist among the many diverse people living and working throughout the Greater Hartford Region can be altered.

Planning partners of this event include representatives from American Red Cross, Capital Community College, City of Hartford, CT Valley Girl Scout Council, ESPN, Greater Hartford Jaycees, Hartford Hospital, Hartford Parking Authority, Healing The Heart of Hartford, Inc., Hispanic Professional Network, Hola Hartford, National Conference for Community & Justice, Trinity College, University of Hartford, Urban League of Greater Hartford and the West Indian Social Club of Hartford.

Cultural Awareness Days is an Action Project of the NCCJ Conversations on Race. To participate, volunteer or receive more information, please call 860.987.6276 or visit our website at [www.culturalawarenessdays.org](http://www.culturalawarenessdays.org).

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